

JOHNNY MOLER MYSTERY SOLVED BY HIS RETURN

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Much-Sought-After London Man Found in Toronto—Amazed at Sensation Caused by His Simple Desire to Take a Trip West.

POSTCARD TO EMPLOYER GOES ASTRAY

The mystery of Johnny Moler is solved. He was found this morning, with all his arms and legs intact, calmly strolling through the lobby of a Toronto hotel.

Two or three months ago the disappearance of Johnny Moler had been a mystery. He was a dependable, hard-working young man, employed at the Webster Construction Company. One day, Saturday, Aug. 26, to be exact, he went down to Toronto to attend a wedding, intending to return on the following Monday, and that is the last that had been known of him from that day to this.

After Moler had been away for a few days his employer, William Webster, became alarmed, and, communicating with Toronto, discovered that Moler had never attended the wedding, and that his friends there knew nothing of him.

Foul play!

Foul play was at once suspected. Mr. Webster notified the police, and it was discovered that the young man had left behind a bank account of some \$2,500 and all his personal belongings in his room at the Empire Hotel. Evidently, therefore, Moler had intended to return, and within a week or so various stories of murder and sudden death were freely broadcast.

Careful search revealed no clue. Moler had vanished from the face of the earth, and that was all there was to it.

Until this morning.

This morning Calvin S. Parker of Ridout street, manager of London Clay Products, Limited, was standing in the lobby of the King Edward Hotel watching the crowds. Suddenly in front of him appeared a familiar face. Mr. Parker gasped. It was Johnny Moler, or Moler's ghost.

Mr. Parker grabbed the ghost in great excitement.

"Why, hello!" quoth Moler, wheeling around in casual pleasure.

Parker was speechless. Didn't this calm young man know he was dead and buried long ago?

Really Moler.

To make a long story short, the young man didn't. And it was really Moler, and not his ghost. Nothing had happened to him. He had just been away for a while.

A mystery is never so mysterious as when there is no mystery. And what's the case with Johnny Moler. There was no real mystery. It just happened—another tragic comedy of errors.

The explanation is simple. When

Moler reached Toronto that Saturday last August, something turned up which prevented his going to the wedding. The holiday spirit upon him, however, he decided to take a trip west to visit his uncle in Winnipeg. So he dropped a card to that effect to William Webster here and boarded the train for Winnipeg. The



JOHNNY MOLER.

card never arrived—and there you are!

Moler spent some time in Winnipeg, and then took a position with a construction company in Dauphin, Manitoba, always intending to return to London. And he'll be back here now within a day or so.

The most astonished person in the whole affair now is Johnny Moler himself.

"I didn't know anything about it," he declared to Mr. Parker this morning.

To Londoners, it's something like having the corpse suddenly sit up after the coffin is in the grave.

The advertiser phoned the proprietor of the Empire Hotel this morning, but he was still in blissful ignorance of the whereabouts of Moler. The hotelkeeper stated the man's clothes and other property were still in his room, but he had no idea when, if ever, the "missing" man would return to claim his belongings. Rather than spoil the surprise which Moler's homecoming would create, the advertiser did not break the news of the discovery.

WANTS SACRED VEIL OF DOCTORS REMOVED

Alberta Member Declares the Physicians Must Now Call "A Spade a Spade."

Special to The Advertiser.

Edmonton, Alta., Jan. 26.—Buckley of Glenora is going to tear the sacred veil from the face of the medical profession. In other words, Buckley of Glenora says "doctors' English" on prescriptions—that is, on honest-to-goodness drug prescriptions, not the two-dollar kind that are issued so liberally these days—must go.

No longer shall "signs and aquapura" strike terror into the hearts of the lame and the halt of this fair province. No longer shall "God Chik" masquerade as common sense, which, when dissolved in water with a few drops of "On, su, or something equally mysterious," added details to the now thoroughly scared client, at a dollar for a small bottle.

The medical profession hereafter must call a spade a spade, and not Buckley, and they must write their prescriptions in plain, everyman's English. Mr. Buckley intends to introduce an amendment to the medical act at this session which shall wipe Latin off the face of the earth—or rather off the face of the well-known chemist's bottle of commercially compounded drugs, designed for the tumblers of clients who never got higher, maybe, than grade eight at school.

LIQUOR AND BLACK JACK LOCATED IN KU KLUX KLAN

Special to The Advertiser.

New York, Jan. 26.—Eight men alleged to have been seen leaving a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan held in a Brooklyn traffic court room were arrested and jailed early today by detectives of the bomb squad.

A bottle of Scotch whiskey, two black jacks, and a white robe with eyelets in the hood were found in the car in which the men were taken to the station, and were seized according to the squad, and other detectives.

Seventy-five men had just completed a meeting under the name of the Marines Circle Club, Gagan declared.

The men were charged with possession of concealed weapons.

BIDRELL EARNED OF SALARY RAISE AT 1922 MEETING

Commission Claims Sin Was One of Omission Rather Than Commission.

JUDD NOT INFORMED

Chairman of Civic Finance Committee Ignorant of Action of Police Board.

Common ordinary secrecy apparently did not satisfy the police commissioners when they raised Chief Bidrell's salary last December. The commission has approached the impossible: it has given the adjective "secret" a superlative degree. Of course, this was accomplished back in the "good old days" of 1922, when such things as transacting business without even calling a meeting was possible.

Ex-Mayor Cameron Wilson, Magistrate A. H. M. Graydon, Judge Talbot Macbeth, were assembled in Police Chief Robert Bidrell's office for the December meeting of the police commission. Chief Bidrell was secretary.

For reasons at the time unknown to the chief, he was asked by Magistrate Graydon to get a certain book from the magistrate's office. Then while the secretary was absent the commissioners discussed an increase for the chief. Before they had reached a decision at this "most secret" part of the secret session the chief returned. He was told that they were discussing a matter which demanded the utmost privacy, as the matter concerned him. He graciously withdrew.

Informed of Increase.

When he returned to the inner sanctum he was informed that he had been granted a \$500 increase.

"The chief never made application for an increase; in fact, he hasn't done so since he became chief," Magistrate Graydon stated. "He has often presented the claims of the other members of the force, but has never asked for an increase himself."

Incidentally the magistrate pointed out the police estimates for last year, which showed a salary of \$10,000, as compared to \$12,500 for 1921.

"No one was instructed to keep the increase a secret," Magistrate Graydon stated.

So the sin has been laid down as one of omission rather than commission—just a habit of secrecy which has gripped London police commissioners for decades.

Of which even the ones of the present day have been unable to rid themselves.

Insider Police Department.

"We'll consider the police department activities when we come to them," assured Mayor Wenige today, commenting upon The Advertiser's story yesterday with relation to the salary revision by the police commission in December last.

"There will be a directors' meeting in the near future," he stated, "the same as in the other municipal departments. I said 'directors' meeting.' There are no aldermen sessions this year."

All members of this year's council, who were also numbered among the 1922 representation, explained today, that they had heard that the salary increases were in last night's edition of The Advertiser.

Without disputing for a moment, the fairness of the increases, they were a unit in questioning why this matter had not been given publicity.

Did Not Know of Increase.

"I never heard a word about it," said Ald. A. M. Judd, chairman of the finance committee. "I presume that the commissioners have the right to fix the salaries as they see fit. The only power resting with the council, involves the estimates. We may reduce them if we deem it expedient."

"As a matter of fact, I understand that the mayor is created chairman of the commission, since he would be better able to advise as he would be in close touch with the financial situation at the city hall."

Ald. Leonard Douglass, chairman of the board of works, states that he had received no intimation, but as he has remained since July last.

Several times old friends have journeyed to London to see the old gentleman, and reminders were swapped. Unless those friends can be located immediately, their eyes should never look upon the old man again.

Accompanied by Dr. McGhie, superintendent of Westminster, The Advertiser representative entered Sergeant Richardson's private room. The doctor stroked his snowy locks and murmured in his ear if he wished to talk.

"Can't you say a few words, dad?" the doctor whispered.

The dying patient vainly moved his lips for utterance. A few minutes later he died, and the old man coughed violently.

"We'd better go," suggested the doctor.

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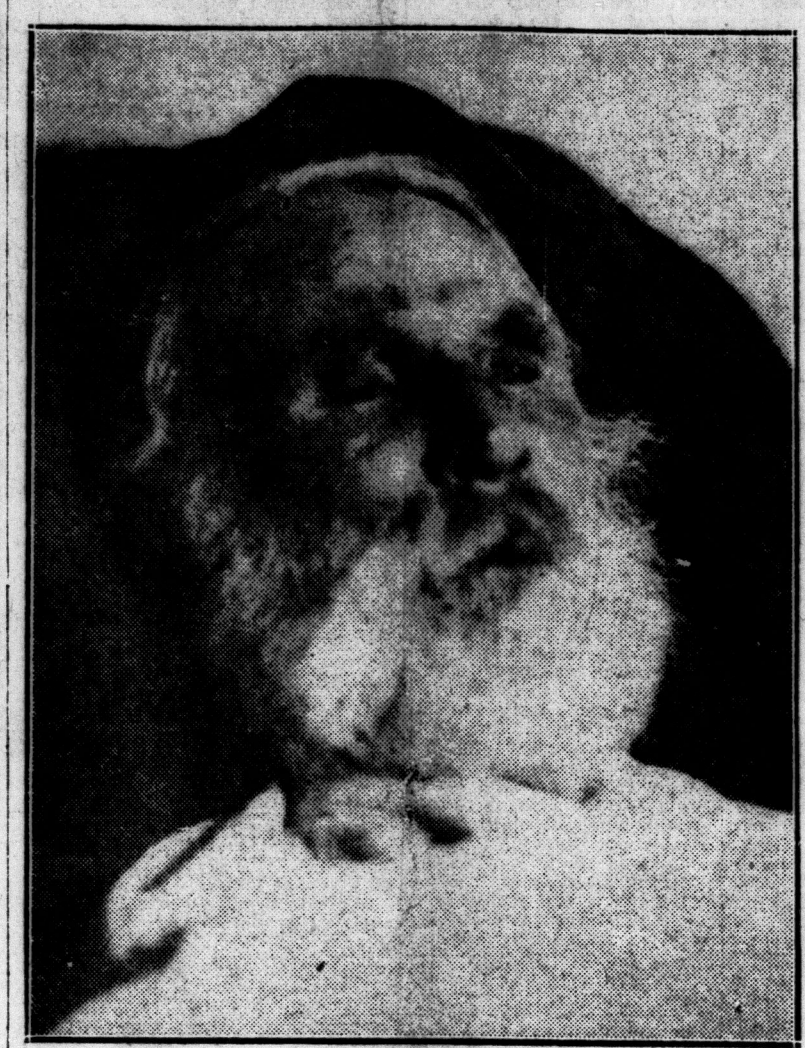
Came From Ireland.

George Richardson came from Ireland in his early teens. When the rebellion in India in 1857, young Richardson begged earnestly to join. Three times he was refused because of his tender age. The fourth time, however, the colonel of the regiment approached Henry, George's elder brother, in despair.

"George seems determined to pester the life out of us," he told him. "Then take the waster!" said the brother.

After his escape with the Sepoys, he was offered a commission. But the young man refused, because he considered his education below that necessary to be an officer. Failing a commission, the Queen honored

EMPIRE'S OLDEST V. C. HERO TROD PATH OF GLORY ALONE



THE EMPIRE'S OLDEST HERO.

Here is Sergt. George Richardson, V.C., as he looked when The Advertiser visited him in Westminster Hospital this morning.

Sergt. George Richardson, 89, Dying in Westminster Hospital, of This City, Feeble, Lonely But With Glory Undimmed—Served Empire Well and Rewarded by Grateful Queen.

In a private room of Westminster Hospital a little old man is dying. He is Sergeant George Richardson, the oldest holder of the Victoria Cross in the British Empire, a veteran of the Indian mutiny.

Sixty-four years ago young Richardson, then a man of 25, walked leisurely past the outskirts of his English regiment in India. Hearing a rustle through a clump of bushes, he spied five sepoy.

A flash of fire lit the darkness and Private Richardson felt a piercing pain and blood dripping from his leg. Undaunted, he plowed into the enemy. A fierce native crashed the point of the young man's rifle and Richardson pummeled the sepoy's skull with the musket butt.

Single-handed he killed two others of the bronze-colored foe. He found an English officer lying in the bushes whom the sepoy had been torturing. The officer slaughtered the fourth native and the other one fled.

Now Sergeant Richardson lies, without a relative or friend, in a hospital cot. His breath is coming in feeble gasps.

Asked if he could hear an Advertiser representative this morning, the steel gray eyes of the ancient hero brightened momentarily and he nodded.

Questioned as to whether he could speak a few last words, his lips moved and an expression of pathetic fulfillment came over his face. The martial spirit of an heroic soul strove to find expression, but the claims of hoary age decreed the tiny spark of life that still remained should be burst again into the flame of action.

Sergeant George Richardson, V.C., is 89 years of age. Although the local climate over his face, the marks of the past war, in recognition of his undying services and because of his feeble condition, he was sent from Toronto to the London institution. Here he has remained since July last.

Swap Stories.

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BUSES IN LONDON ARE BEING SOUGHT BY ANOTHER CITY

Thriving Municipality Believed Anxious to Secure Services of Local Vehicles.

WILL OFFER BONUS

Decision of Men Expected to Depend Upon Action of Police Commission.

A thriving municipality, not many miles distant, has made a bona fide offer to the motor-bus operators of London, and definite action must be taken by the end of the month. The overture includes a substantial bonus.

An announcement to this effect was forthcoming this morning, and the name of the municipality is temporarily withheld pending final action by the local police commissioners.

The Advertiser has good and sufficient reason to believe, however, that a substantial offer has been made by the municipal authorities of another Western Ontario center, and the place is not north or west of the city.

Official representatives were sent to this city within the past few days to watch the buses in action and confer with the operators as to costs of operation, the local traffic and license restrictions and so forth. A very encouraging report was received by the visitors upon their return home, and it is now known definitely, and from an undisputed source, that the offer was since forthcoming.

Depends on Commission.

The authorities of the other city have adopted the attitude that if London does not care whether the buses continue to operate, they will certainly endeavor to bring them hence.

Everything hinges now upon the next session of the police commission. The Advertiser was informed today. A general meeting of the bus operators, set for last night, was postponed indefinitely.

"I will call a meeting of the police board early next week," Mayor Wenige assured this afternoon. "We must have this affair settled as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, a bylaw is being drafted again in order that the commissioners will be given definite assurance that it is the opinion of the majority of the city councilors."

Will Get New Buses.

The Advertiser was further informed that while it was quite possible that certain of the bus operators would quit business entirely or else leave for other fields of endeavor, there are others who are preparing to introduce a number of new and more modern buses on the local thoroughfares.

Other operators state that should they abandon the field during the winter they will bring out their cars again in the spring to compete with the street railway corporation for Springfield traffic.

They insist that the city would have no power to license them in this respect, or otherwise interfere with their county program.

RUSSIA MAY ARRANGE TRADE PACT WITH JAPS

Soviet Government Representative on Way to Tokio for Visit.

Special to The Advertiser.

Chicago, Jan. 26.—Negotiations between Japan and Russia toward a commercial treaty are expected to follow the arrival here of A. J. Joffe, Soviet Government representative in Shanghai to Tokio.

Joffe left Peking recently complaining of ill-health and expecting to recuperate in Hong Kong or Macao. The permission of the British and Portuguese governments for his visit to the colonies, however, was insufficiently cordial, and his trip ended at Shanghai.

Viscount Goto, who is mayor of Tokyo and also president of the Russo-Japanese society, secured the consent of Foreign Minister Uchida for Joffe to visit Japan, and he was invited to recuperate at a hot springs here. The Japanese foreign minister announced that the Soviet envoy is expected to reach here Monday.

HOSPITAL FIRE THREATENS TO DRIVE SICK INTO STORM

Canadian Press Despatch.

Sydney, N. S., Jan. 26.—Over one hundred patients in the Glace Bay General Hospital were in danger of being turned out in a driving snowstorm when fire broke out in the superintendent's office last night. The fire was caused probably by the crossing of telephone and light wires as a result of a heavy gale. The blaze was eventually put out with trifling loss. There was no panic.

Bears Honor Wreath.

In November, 1921, Sergt. Richardson was given the honor of conveying to Washington and laying on the bier of America's unknown soldier. Since his removal to Westminster, accompanied by Sergt. W. L. Rayfield, Richardson was given an exceptional reception by the British representatives at the Washington disarmament conference. Sir Robert Borden, Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour, and the Earl of Cavan. The British ambassador, Sir Auckland Geddes, also assisted in the entertainment of the old hero.

At the actual ceremony Richardson was supported by the Earl of Cavan. Since his removal to Westminster, doctors and nurses have learned to admire their oldest patient. He has never given the slightest trouble. The only request he ever made was that he be buried by the Orange Lodge, of which he has always been an enthusiastic member.

The old fighter presents a pathetic picture, lying upon his hospital sheets, as white as his own luxuriant locks, he is a living symbol of the triumph of Grey's immortal line. "The path of glory lead but to the grave."

PETITION TO SAVE LIFE OF YOUTHFUL SLAYER

Canadian Press Despatch.

Calgary, Jan. 26.—Commutation of the death sentence passed on Orla Dortsch, 19-year-old slayer of Charles Howard Kelly, a well-to-do rancher of the Vulcan district, is asked in a petition now circulating in Calgary and Vulcan. The petition has been signed by friends of the condemned man's father and is based on the grounds that the self-confessed young murderer is weak-minded, although not insane.

WENIGE CARRIES EFFICIENCY FIGHT INTO HYDRO CAMP

Will Order Probe Into Commission's System in Fixing Power Rates.

PRINCIPLE IS WRONG

Disagrees With Hunt, Who Claims Mayor Would Almost Double Rates.

Mayor George Wenige trains his guns in the general direction of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission.

He disputes the present system of service charges and he purposes, with as little delay as possible, calling a session of five big businessmen to reason with the rebulbar by the local hydro authorities.

This was his announcement today to A. O. Hunt, assistant general manager of the public utilities commission, and to The Advertiser. Mr. Hunt adhered to a contrary view at the time, and upon the war declaration he has the question lifted at a special conference.

"The principle is all wrong, as I view it," he stated to The Advertiser. "I am not criticizing the local commissioners. As I understand it, the rates are fixed by the provincial commission."

Mayor Wenige maintains strenuously that the present system does not conform with the best municipal principles, and is prepared to submit his argument before a board of competent citizens, qualified to discuss business administration.

Assistant Manager Hunt, defending the local department, contended that the mayor's suggestion was adopted in his way, the meeting of his rates of nearly 90 per cent. increase. His worship declines to accept this suggestion without a more detailed discussion.

He objects vigorously to what he characterizes as a "service charge" scheme which is absolutely wrong, he said.

CHICAGO MAYOR STATES HE WILL NOT RUN AGAIN

Associated Press Despatch.

Chicago, Jan. 26.—William Hale Thompson, ending his second four-year term as mayor of Chicago, issued a signed statement last night announcing he would not be a candidate for re-election in the February primary or as an independent candidate at the general municipal election in April.

Mr. Thompson's closing administration was characterized by attacks from newspapers, voters' organizations and civic clubs.

During the war Mayor Thompson was attacked by newspapers for his alleged unpatriotic attitude. His mayor in opposing the war declared the United States had no quarrel with Germany, and that Chicago was the sixth German city.

Hardy people still continue to make northward and raise about one degree because man was originally a tropical animal, and has only slowly found his way north through the temperate zone. But he is finding his way. Two thousand years ago the other half of power was on the shores of the Mediterranean, and in the latitudes of Paris, London and Berlin. The northward movement, viewed in the perspective of centuries, has been persistent and pronounced.

"It is true that it is a natural tendency to avoid the rigorous climate because man was originally a tropical animal, and has only slowly found his way north through the temperate zone. But he is finding his way. Two thousand years ago the other half of power was on the shores of the Mediterranean, and in the latitudes of Paris, London and Berlin. The northward movement, viewed in the perspective of centuries, has been persistent and pronounced."

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STATES CANADA'S GREATEST ISSUE IS IMMIGRATION

Robert Stead Sees Fine Possibilities for Dominion in Future.

WRONG IMPRESSION

Declares People of Other Nations Ignorant of Country's Great Wealth.

Robert J. C. Stead, the Canadian novelist and a member of the department of immigration and colonization at Ottawa, speaking at the London Kiwanis Club in the Tecumseh House at noon today, dealt with the problem of immigration, in which he is, as might be expected, thoroughly at home, and which he claims pre-eminent amongst the national issues of the day.

As opening volley in his exceedingly forceful address, Mr. Stead figures which indicate that while the population of Canada is but three persons to the square mile, England and Wales have 920 persons to the square mile, and the figures range through the hundreds down to Asia, which for its vast tracts of unpopulated regions numbers 50 persons to the square mile.

"These are figures," he said, "of tremendous significance to those who study the relations of cause and effect in world affairs. The inequalities in the distribution of the world's population lie at the root of most of our social and economic troubles. Canada, with less than three persons to the square mile, is destined to play a foremost part in the post-war readjustments of population which will make for a better and a happier world."

Blame Population.

"There is a tendency, all too common, to attribute Canada